

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A propelling charge support for protecting a mortar cartridge prior to use, comprising:

at least one retaining clip for constraining a propelling charge support to a tail fin of the mortar cartridge;

a non-detented clip for constraining the propelling charges;

a rounded saddle with an etched surface for supporting the propelling charges to the tail fin of the mortar cartridge;

a winged edge for protecting the propelling charges from impact and for aiding in removal of the propelling charge support from the mortar cartridge; and

a generally flat outer surface for allowing the propelling charge support to rest on a flat surface during installation.

[Claim 2] The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip and the non-detented clip are disposed on opposite ends of the propelling charge support.

[Claim 3] The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein an exterior surface of the propelling charge support opposite the rounded saddle comprises the winged edge.

[Claim 4] The propelling charge support of claim 3, wherein the exterior surface of the propelling charge support opposite the rounded saddle comprises the flat outer surface.

[Claim 5] The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the mortar cartridge is a 60mm mortar cartridge; and

wherein the retaining clip is approximately 1.59 inches long.

[Claim 6] The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the mortar cartridge is a 60mm mortar cartridge;

wherein the saddle is approximately 1 inch wide.

[Claim 7] The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the mortar cartridge is a 60mm mortar cartridge;

wherein the non-detented retaining clip is approximately 1.59 inches high.

[Claim 8] The propelling charge support of claim 1, wherein the propelling charge support is made of injection molded material comprising high impact polystyrene, or high density polyethylene (HDPE), possibly including another equivalent resin material meeting performance requirements.

[Claim 9] The propelling charge support of claim 1, further comprising a fin engagement clip for interfacing with a fin blade on the tail fin to prevent rotation of the propelling charges about the tail fin axis.

[Claim 10] The propelling charge support of claim 9, wherein the fin engagement clip comprises protrusions that interface with a fin on the tail fin.